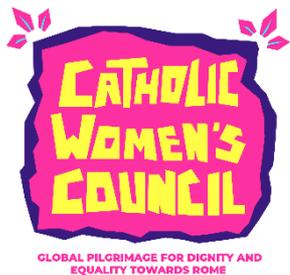




# Enlarge the space of your tent

*Input to the document for the continental stage  
of the Synodal Process*

*Online-Conference 28th of November 2022*



europäische allianz katholischer frauenverbände  
european alliance of catholic women's organisations  
alliance européenne d'organisations féminines catholiques



**Dr. Anja Appel, KOO**

[a.appel@koo.at](mailto:a.appel@koo.at)



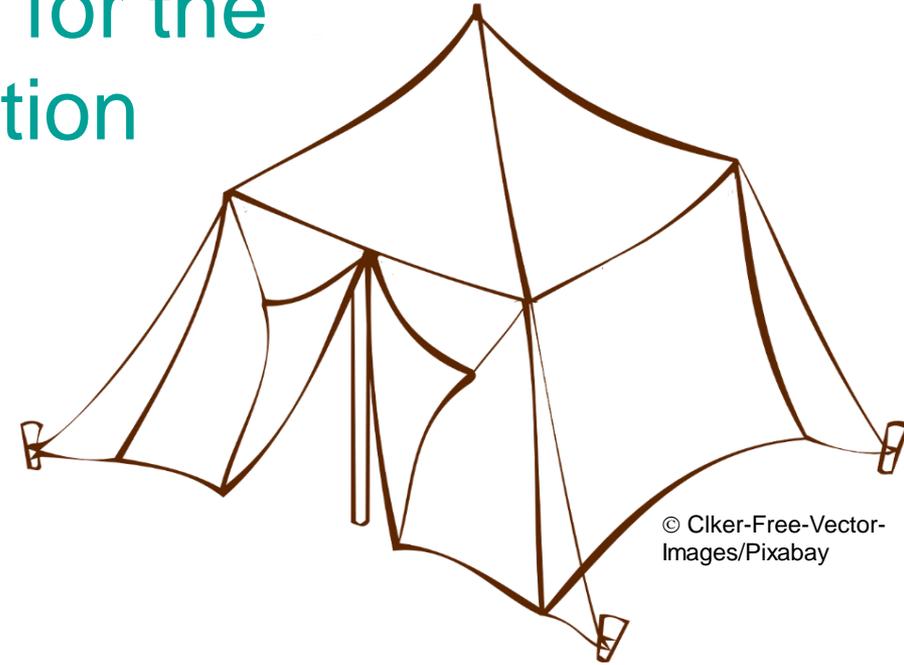
This is a paper that has emerged through many conversations and debates of women's groups worldwide. It diagnoses the church from a women's perspective and identifies areas for action. It has an analytical tone that is hard-hitting. From a romanticised image of Mary that ignores women's realities, to the humiliation of women through violence, to their invisibility, to structures of colonialism and patriarchy whose fruit of a feudal hierarchy lead to exclusion, intransparency and alienation.

LISTEN!



**WOMEN'S VOICES FROM  
AROUND THE GLOBE**

# The tent: key for the interpretation



The image the document uses for the continental stage: “Enlarge the space of your tent” from the Book of Isaiah. This symbol, as it says literally in the text, should serve “as a key for the interpretation” of the document.

The tent stands for protection, joy, but also for the struggle of and for community. This communion that we want to share with others and also extend. In the document itself, the tent is divided into essential components: sturdy stakes, balanced ropes and stretched cloths to give stability and security to the community.

# A synodal church

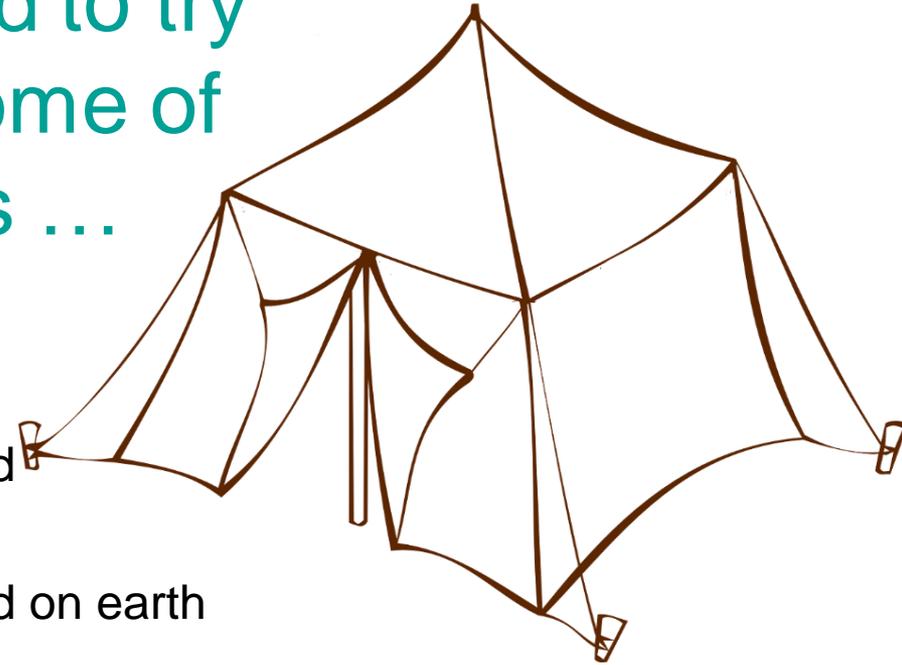


A synodal church, as one clearly senses when reading this document, strives for absolute inclusion: everyone is invited to take a seat in the tent.

This means that our tent should offer space for more people,

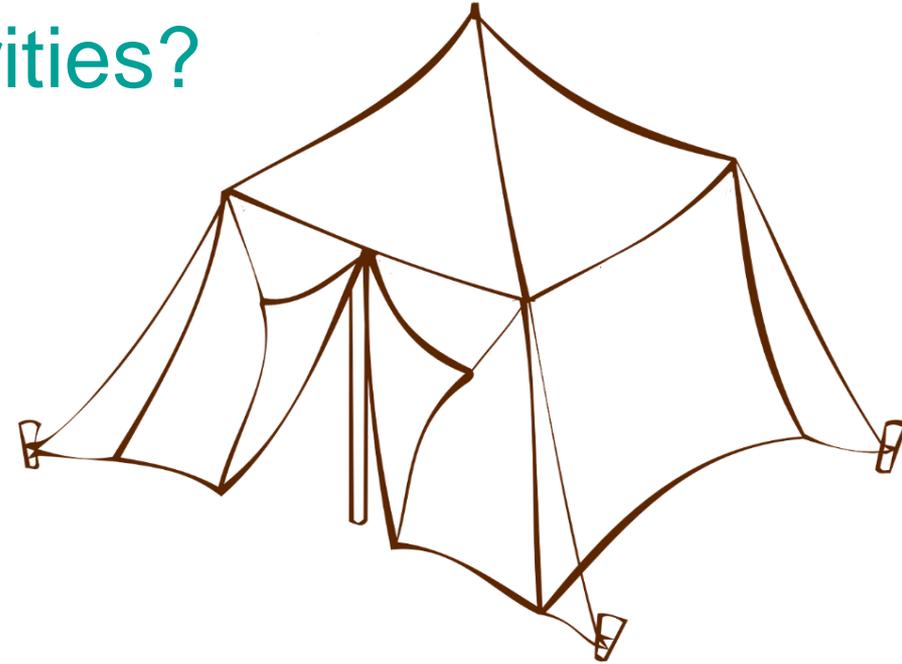
- that is, people should be allowed to enter who want to but are not yet allowed to, who are prevented from entering by existing rules, even though their faith and their longing would draw them to us.
- But the tent should also be attractive to people who have so far judged it to be meaningless, repulsive or unnecessary/useless.

# If one wanted to try to assign some of the topics ...



- **Pegs**
  - The equal dignity of all the baptised
  - Eucharist as source and summit
  - Participation in the Kingdom of God on earth
- **Ropes**
  - Synodal Church
  - Transparency and accountability
  - Decision-making structures and forms of participation
- **Tent cloth**
  - the Gospel and its interpretation
  - the liturgy and sacraments
  - Updating the mission in the world today

# Which priorities?



As we are convinced that Christian action can be healing for people and creation. We not only want to invite more people to join us in tent, we also urgently need them. Only in fraternal connectedness, love and solidarity, we can work for creation and make a radical social-ecological conversion.

Because our prioritisation for further synodal deliberation has to happen in times of multiple crisis(es)

- The rapidly worsening climate crisis, endangers, displaces, costs human lives
- A dramatic loss of biodiversity is an offence to God's creation
- The globally extreme inequalities, fragile states, endangered democracies and human rights make the layer of civilization thin and easily fragile